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UTILITY PATENT  
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App. No. : 09/970,185 Confirmation No. 2268  
Applicant : Thomas LAURSEN et al.  
Filed : October 3, 2001  
Art Unit : 3723  
Examiner : Robert A. Rose  
Docket No. : SFI 658C1  
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on 6/28/04 by Signature 

David K. Benson (Reg. No. 42,314)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED WITH REQUEST**

**FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

*entry  
appmtd  
6/28/04*  
This is a preliminary amendment filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. This paper is also responsive to the final Office Action mailed on March 26, 2004. Please amend the above-identified application as set forth in the Amendments to the Claims section that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.